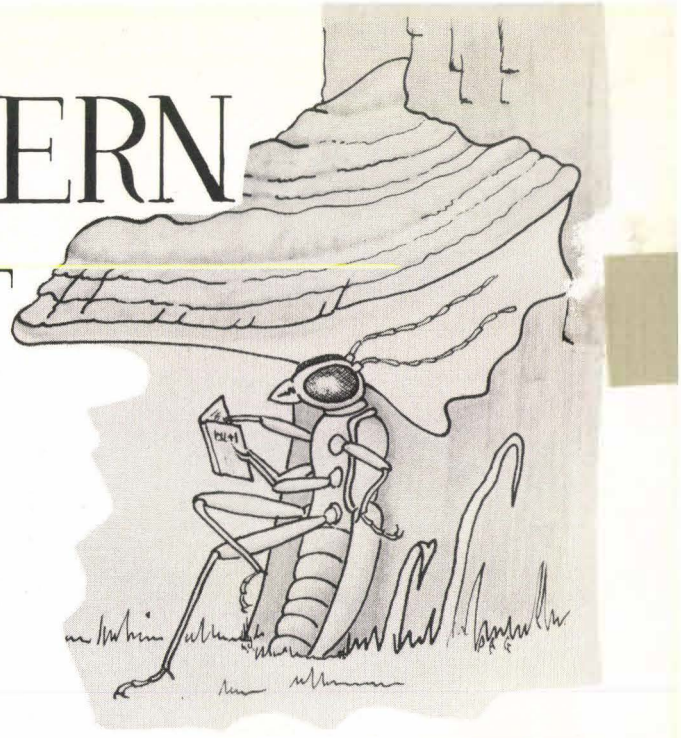
NORTHEASTERN FOREST PEST REPORTER



United States Department of Agriculture • Forest Service
Northeastern Forest Experiment Station

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FOREST INSECTS

SADDLE PROMINENT (Heterocampa guttivitta) The infestation in vicinity of Hancock, Massachusetts appears to be declining due to natural controls. Larvae up to 3/4 inch long were collected in Williamstown on July 24. At this late date the larvae seem unusually small. However, it was reported on July 24 that hatching was only then taking place in eastern Rensselaer County, New York. Control measures were applied in New York during the week of July 30.

VARIABLE OAK LEAF CATERPILLAR (Heterocampa manteo) Unusually abundant, localized outbreaks on white, pin, and southern red oaks in Maryland and Delaware. Defoliation severe in spots in St. Marys and lower Prince Georges Counties, Maryland, and east of Bridgeville, Delaware.

ORANGE-STRIPED OAK WORM (Anisota senatoria) A serious outbreak on approximately 125 acres on Big Burnt Island (Lake George, New York) has been reported. Six percent DDT was applied by airplane the last week of July.

BROWN ANISOTA (Anisota virginiensis) Defoliating oaks, especially white oak, at Petersburg and in the Redden State Forest, Delaware.

SATIN MOTH (Stilpnotia salicis) Appears to be increasing, with medium heavy populations on cottonwood in Saratoga, Albany and Herkimer Counties, New York, and on hybrid poplars at Hopkins Experimental Forest, Williamstown, Massachusetts.

WHITE-MARKED TUSSOCK MOTH (Hemerocampa leucostigma) Unusually prevalent on sycamore in the Smyrna area and responsible for light damage to maple and oaks at Petersburg, Delaware.

HICKORY TUSSOCK MOTH (Halisidota caryae) Severe on black walnut at Newark, Delaware.

RED-HUMPED OAKWORM (Symnerista albicosta) Moderately abundant on white oak throughout the State of Delaware.

GYPSY MOTH (Porthetria dispar) The collection of pupae for adult female abdominal tips was started by ARS on July 9. Although the gypsy moth population was reported at a low level in New York, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont, collections were made in local centers of heavy feeding around Cornwell-Kent, Connecticut; Nashua-Derry, New Hampshire; and in the Whitehall, New York-Poultney, Vermont area. These were made to supplement collections in Spain and Yugoslavia. The female tips are processed at Beltsville, Maryland to obtain sex-attractant bait. Nearly 1-1/2 million acres are being surveyed in central Michigan. The survey is also being conducted in selected areas of West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, and Virginia. More than 7-3/4 million acres are being surveyed around the edge of the known infestation in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Quebec. About 25,000 sex-attractant traps are involved. The annual gypsy moth defoliation survey by aerial reconnaissance was started on July 17. The survey will progress from Maine through New Hampshire and Vermont. Defoliation surveys are being conducted in other states by either contract or state-owned equipment.

SPRUCE BUDWORM (Choristeneura fumiferana) An extensive aerial survey in Maine has revealed light scattered defoliation of 1956 foliage in fir stands over the region east of a line roughly drawn from Fort Kent to Baxter State Park, Lincoln, and Calais. Within this area are two areas of light continuous defoliation. One in the northeastern section of the large area, and one running from Topfield, north and east to the Canadian border. In New Hampshire, occasional larvae at Franconia Notch, Clarksville, and Jackson with no defoliation evident.

BLACK-HEADED BUDWORM (Acleris variana) This insect has increased in numbers. There is now a general light infestation over northeastern Maine.

FALL CANKERWORM (Alsophila pometaria) Stripping 50 to 75 acres of hardwood near Ellsworth and approximately 1000 acres in the town of Warren, Maine. Many more acres with less defoliation. Red oak is preferred host, and maple and birch the least.

YELLOW-NECKED CATERPILLAR (Datana ministra) Causing partial defoliation of pin, white and red oaks generally in Delaware.

WALNUT CATERPILLAR (Datana integerrima) Severely defoliating black walnut at many places in Delaware.

DATANA (Datana contracta) Numerous on white oak at Petersburg, Delaware.

POPLAR TENT MAKER (Ichthyura inclusa) Responsible for light damage to poplar and aspen from Newark to Bridgeville, Delaware.

SWEETGUM WEBWORMS (Salebria afflictella and Tetralopha melanagrammos) Light to moderate damage to foliage in forests throughout the State of Delaware. Very severe on ornamental plantings from Smyrna, southward.

GEOMETRID (unidentified) Moderately heavy defoliation of red maple observed over most of 2600-acre forest tract at Petersburg, Delaware.

TORTRICID (unidentified) Outbreak occurs on beech in northern part of Delaware. Many trees show as much as 50 percent of the foliage affected.

BAGWORM (Thyridopteryx ephemeraeformis) Heavy on arborvitae and cedar in Maryland, reported on conifers in Delaware.

NANTUCKET PINE TIP MOTH (Rhyacionia frustrana) Severe tip injury to loblolly pine in plantations in northern Delaware. Less damage in Scotch, red, and loblolly plantations in other parts of Delaware and Maryland. Light to moderate infestations in natural stands of loblolly pine in Delaware and Virginia pine in Maryland.

DYAR'S SAWFLY (Neodiprion dyari) Reported as causing extensive defoliation of pitch pine in southern New Jersey. It has also defoliated many shortleaf pines and occasional planted loblolly, jack, and ponderosa pines. Light infestation reported on pitch pine in Warren, Albany, and Rensselaer Counties, New York.

EUROPEAN SPRUCE SAWFLY (Diprion hercyniae) A severe outbreak on 600 acres in Orleans, Massachusetts was treated with DDT during the week of July 9 with good control resulting. Reported from eastern Maine, thence northwest to the Allegash.

EUROPEAN PINE SAWFLY (Neodiprion sertifer) Causing considerable stripping of red pine in plantations in Westchester County, New York.

BIRCH LEAF MINER (Fenusa pusilla) Very abundant especially on gray birch in southern Maine. Second generation adults were seen mating and ovipositing at Monmouth, Maine on July 24. Damage prevalent statewide in Massachusetts, but of less intensity than peak year of 1954.

BALSAM TWIG APHID (Mindarus abietinus) Very abundant in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont causing curling and twisting of current growth which could seriously affect the appearance of Christmas tree stock.

WHITE PINE APHID (Cinara strobi) Has caused considerable flagging and mortality to young white pine in Vermont. Also Cinara sp. is retarding growth of laterals and leaders of Virginia pine at Petersburg, Delaware.

PINE LEAF APHID (Pineus pinifoliae) Injury and mortality of white pine still being reported in New York, Maine and Vermont. Intensity of damage, in Vermont, seems to vary with altitude. Two young plantations at 1400 and 1700 feet were a total loss. However, new growth has developed on many pines previously considered nearly dead, so while there may be considerable loss of vigor, mortality will not be as severe as expected.

WOOLLY ALDER APHID (Prociphilus tessellatus) Heavily infesting cut leaf maple in New Hampshire. The SOURGUM APHID (Aphis coreopsidis) abundant on Black Tupelo at Petersburg, Delaware in May and June resulting in present retarded growth. Calaphis betulella, a birch aphid very abundant on Betula nigra at Petersburg, Delaware.

BALSAM WOOLLY APHID (Adelges piceae) Now in epidemic numbers on fir in the Green and White Mountain National Forests. Tree mortality has resulted in volume losses of 5 to 25 percent during the last five years. Continued tree mortality is expected. The insect has been reported in Maine as far north as Patten.

SYCAMORE LACE BUG (Corythucha ciliata) Feeding moderate to heavy on sycamore in most sections of Maryland.

OAK LACE BUG (Corythucha arcuata) Heavy on oaks in Baltimore, Maryland area and generally numerous in Delaware on white oak.

PINE SPITTLE BUG (Aphrophora parallela) Infestations of light to medium intensity on Scotch and white pine in various parts of New York.

PINE ENGRAVER (Ips pini) Local outbreaks in West Rindge, New Hampshire.

PIT MAKING OAK SCALE (Asterolecanium variolosum) Heavily infesting white oak in Letchworth State Park, New York. It has not been determined whether heavy oak branch mortality is due to this insect.

TULIPTREE SCALE (Toumeyella liriodendri) Building up rapidly in northern Delaware where tulip is heavy component.

EASTERN LARCH BEETLE (Dendroctonus simplex) Local killing of larch in and surrounding blow-down area in Maine is now subsiding.

PALES WEEVIL (Hylobius pales) Very abundant in young Virginia pine at Petersburg, Delaware, killing 1 percent of the seedlings.

ASIATIC OAK WEEVIL (Cyrtepistomus castaneus) Adults abundant in Delaware forests. Injury to foliage of oaks (especially white) and chinquapin ranges from light in the northern, to moderately severe in the southern, part of the state.

OAK TWIG PRUNER (Hypermallus villosus) Continues to heavily infest oaks in parts of the Catskill Mountain area and also in Letchworth Park (Wyoming and Livingston Counties, New York).

JAPANESE BEETLE (Popillia japonica) Causing moderate to severe damage to elm, maple and other hardwoods in central and southern Maryland and northern and western Sussex County, Delaware.

LOCUST LEAF MINER (Chalepus dorsalis) Heavy on black locust in Maryland with unusually severe damage in the central Counties.

SUGAR MAPLE BORER (Glycobius speciosus) Damage is severe in Elk and McKean Counties, Pennsylvania. Survey showed as many as 50 percent of the hard maples were attacked.

WHITE PINE CONE BEETLE (Conophthorus sp.). Has practically eliminated the white pine cone crop in such widely scattered areas as Montgomery and Howard County, Maryland, and Alfred, Maine. In Maryland individual pines in hardwood stands seem not to be infested.

EASTERN GALL RUST (Cronartium cerebrum) In Delaware the rust was prevalent on Virginia pine in the Redden State Forest area. Approximately 42% of the pines were infected, with one to several galls per tree.

NEEDLE RUST (Coleosporium solidaginis) In the Petersburg State Reservation area in Delaware, a high incidence of rust occurred on loblolly pine.

ASH LEAF RUST (Puccinia peridermiospora) The rust is showing up in moderate amounts this year in New Hampshire. Infection was heavy in 1953 and 1954, but very light in 1955. In Massachusetts, it is reported from Boston south along the coast, and in the Cape Cod area.

BEECH NECTRIA (Nectria coccinea var. faginata) The Nectria is present near Canaan, New York, in Columbia County. This is the most northern location in New York where the disease has been identified. It is associated with the beech scale.

NEEDLE CAST (Rhabdocline pseudotsugae) On Douglas-firs grown for Christmas trees in New York plantations, infection of needles is becoming more serious.

WHITE PINE BLISTER RUST (Cronartium ribicola) Following the extremely heavy aecial spore production on infected pines during the spring in New York State, heavy infection on Ribes is now occurring. Early shedding of Ribes foliage is anticipated in many areas of the State.

OAK WILT (Endoconidiophora fagacearum) Wilt survey is proceeding in western Maryland, with the University of Maryland and the State Department of Forests and Parks cooperating. Garrett, Washington, and Alleghany Counties have had first survey; twenty infection centers have been located. Eradication procedures will be followed.

ROOT AND BUTT ROT (Polyporus circinatus) The rot is causing trouble in some uneven-aged stands of pure spruce in Waldo County, Maine, resulting in a high percentage of infected trees. Its immediate importance is the bother it is giving the service foresters in marking the areas for partial or improvement cuttings, plus the loss of merchantable timber.

OAK MORTALITY This trouble, of unknown origin, is apparently increasing in intensity and extent in New York State. Similar symptoms have been reported in red oaks in northern Maryland.

BIRCH DIEBACK AND MORTALITY Serious dieback in Schoharie and Delaware Counties of New York State, also heavy mortality in scattered areas of the State, may be the result of repeated frost damage, aggravated by heavy frost this spring. Dying of black birch, cause undetermined, is occurring near Worcester, Otsego County, New York.

SWEET GUM DIEBACK The dieback of unknown cause, which is prevalent from Maryland southward, is reported as heavy in the northern part of Delaware.

MAPLE DIEBACK Sugar maple top dieback and mortality continues to be evident throughout Vermont, in previously undefoliated and defoliated areas alike. Similar damage to maples has been reported from southern Maine and from Massachusetts. Drought, hurricanes, and various fungi, seem to be contributing factors.

FROST INJURY Additional reports of frost injury emphasize the extent and severity of the damage to both hardwoods and conifers this spring. Late frosts caused severe but spotty damage to hardwoods in the Pine Region of southern New Jersey. Oaks suffered the most injury. Injury to hardwoods occurred also in spots on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. Oaks were extensively injured in Vermont. Reports from Massachusetts state that growth from lateral buds is now replacing the frost-damaged foliage on oaks. In New Hampshire hickory, as well as beech, was affected. In the Rangeley section of Maine, the new growth of spruce and fir was killed.

BROWNING OF PINE In southern New Jersey, winter injury to pine occurred in spots, particularly in the Plains area. White pines in Massachusetts are showing symptoms resembling those of needle blight, presumably caused by adverse factors affecting the root system. In the southern half of Maine, browning this spring has apparently been the result of several factors, such as ocean spray from fall and winter storms, road-salt spray, winter browning, root injury from hurricanes and more recent high winds. The same type of trouble has been reported along the coast of New Hampshire.

ICE DAMAGE In northern Maine, extensive damage to conifers resulted from the breakage of 10-15 feet of the tops of trees.